



**Vermont**  
**Association of**  
**Area Agencies**  
**on Aging**

476 Main Street  
Suite #3  
Winooski, VT 05404

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[www.Vermont4A.org](http://www.Vermont4A.org)

**Member Agencies:**

Age Well

Central Vermont Council on Aging

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Senior Solutions

**To:** Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

**From:** Janet Hunt, Executive Director

**Date:** August 26, 2020

**Re:** H.611 Testimony on the Older Vermonters Act

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H.611 "The Older Vermonters Act." Is truly a call to action for all individuals as we all are aging.

It addresses key principles that the state of Vermont must adhere to for the supports, protections and a system of services that are critical for older Vermonters to have optimal health and wellness, housing, transportation and community design, family caregiver support and financial security.

H.611 defines how we will care for older adults who have the greatest economic need, greatest social need and those who are at risk of self-neglect.

H.611 makes it clear who within the state is responsible to administer all aspects of the Older Vermonters Act and holds specific agencies accountable for the implementation, coordination and follow-through of services and supports. The bill will require both qualitative and quantitative data to monitor and evaluate the system's success as it focuses services to individuals with the greatest economic and social need.

H.611 requires that by May 2021, the Secretary of Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Disability, Aging and Independent Living must develop a Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well, which shall provide strategies and cultivate partnerships for implementation across sectors to promote aging with health, choice, and dignity in order to establish and maintain an age-friendly state for all Vermonters. The Action Plan shall also address the additional needs and concerns of older Vermonters and their families in the event of a public health crisis, natural disaster, or other widespread emergency in this State.

H.611 requires home and community-based rate studies to determine Medicaid reimbursement rates for providers of home- and community-based services that are sufficient to recruit and retain individual service providers and allow individuals to attain and maintain their highest level of functioning in accordance with a care plan, while also creating a fair and equitable balance between cost containment and high-quality care.

H.611 requires the creation of a self-neglect working group to provide recommendations regarding adults who, due to physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity, are unable to perform essential self-care tasks.

H.611 provides purposeful inclusivity to a population that might otherwise be marginalized.

The Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging has worked to build support from our partners across the state who have signed-on to H.611. These partner agencies include, to name a few:

- Vermont Association of Adult Day Services
- Vermont Association on Senior Centers and Meal Providers (VASCAMP)
- Green Mountain Transit
- SASH - Support and Services at Home
- Bayada Home Health Care
- Cathedral Square
- Barre Housing Authority
- United Way of Addison County
- Orleans County Restorative Justice Center
- The five member Area Agencies on Aging: Age Well, Central Vermont Council on Aging, Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, Senior Solutions and Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

H.611 and all of the elements that it contains should pass because we all care about our parents and our grandparents and because we should care to set the stage now for the sake of our children and grandchildren's future as they age.

Thank you for your time and consideration to pass the Older Vermonters Act.

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Attachment: Supporters of H.611 as of August 26, 2020



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**Supporters of H.611, The Older Vermonters Act as of August 26, 2020**

1.	Age Well
2.	Barre Housing Authority
3.	Bayada Home Health Care
4.	Cathedral Square
5.	Central Vermont Council on Aging
6.	Downstreet Housing & Community Development
7.	Gilman Housing Trust Inc. DBA RuralEdge
8.	Green Mountain Transit
9.	HANDS (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors)
10.	Montpelier Senior Activity Center
11.	Northeast Kingdom Council. on Aging
12.	Orleans County Restorative Justice Center
13.	OSIP Adult Day Services
14.	SASH - Support and Services at Home
15.	Senior Solutions
16.	Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging
17.	Thompson Senior Center
18.	Tri-Valley Transit
19.	United Way of Addison County
20.	Vermont Association of Adult Day Services
21.	Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging
22.	Vermont Association on Senior Centers and Meal Providers (VASCAMP)